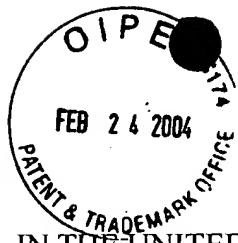


P23935.A05



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SC
#168
3/2/04

Applicant : Kazutoyo MAEHIRO Group Art Unit: 2171
Appln. No. : 09/820,554 Examiner: T. Chen
Filed : March 29, 2001
For : MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SERVER, USER TERMINAL, MESSAGE - SENDING TERMINAL, AND METHOD FOR RETRIEVING MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND FOR SENDING MESSAGE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FEB 27 2004

Technology Center 2100

Sir :

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the claims as follows:.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this Reply.

Remarks begin on page 12 of this Reply.